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that this would still further prolong the time between the election and inauguration of a President, which is already too long. There is force in this, especially in view of the recent tendency to deny certain constitutional rights to a President after a popular election has gone against him. If the rule is to become established that the incumbent of the office is shorn of a considerable part of his constitutional powers by an adverse election it would not be wise to lengthen the time between election and inauguration day. If any change is made it should be shortened instead of lengthened. There are good and valid reasons why a President should take the office in considerably less time than four months after his election.

## AN ABSURD PRETEXT.

The Philadelphia Times takes time by the foretop when it holds ex-President Harrison responsible for any financial panic which may come. The ground for his responsibility is that if he had used his influence with the Republicans in the House the Sherman law could have been repealed. This is absurd. It would have been presumptuous for General Harrison as President to have sent word to the Republicans in Congress by agents, as did Mr. Cleveland to the Democrats, that he desired the repeal of the Sherman silver act. If such interference by General Harrison had had no greater influence with Republicans than did that of Mr. Cleveland with Democrats his efforts would have been fruitless, as were those of the new President with his party in Congress. As it was, a majority of the Republicans in the House voted to take up and consider the bill reported for the repeal of the Sherman act in spite of its objectionable features. Furthermore, there was nothing in the situation to warrant any such urgent and unusual action by General Harrison. The outflow of gold cannot be traced to the Sherman act, but to a purpose of Austria to secure a stock of gold for gold payments, and to other governments to strengthen their gold reserves. At the present time Mr. Cleveland has a Congress of his own party. If, as the Times intimates, a panic may come from the Sherman silver law, the President can call that Congress together, and if he can make it appear that the Sherman law is an element of great danger, Republicans generally will vote with the Democrats to repeal the measure. The editor of the Times knows much more about national finances and revenues than the average Democrat occupying that position. He, therefore, knows that the real danger is not so much the Sherman law as such a change in revenue laws as would put the balance of trade against this country, which would follow a revenue tariff. When it shall become necessary to send a hundred millions in gold to Europe to pay for the excess of merchandise imports over exports, and factories are closing here because foreign-made goods are displacing home-made in our markets, then the trouble which the Times foresees may come. Indeed, it will be a miracle if it does not. If there shall be such a change, General Harrison is the last man in the country who can be held responsible for the result.

## THE REWARDS OF LITERATURE.

Mr. James Lane Allen's very delightful lecture on the development of American literature is evidently the result of careful thought and extensive reading, and shows his own culture and critical taste, but some of his views expressed are at variance with others and with facts which he must admit. He says, for example, by way of accounting for the lack of imaginative literature in this country, that the rewards are insufficient; that writers, in order to live, must devote at least a part of their energies to other pursuits, and that the government, unlike France and certain other countries, offers no encouragement to their art. "If ten or twenty thousand dollars," he asks, "were offered for the production of a high-class work of fiction, what excellent effect would not such a stimulus have?" It is unquestionably true that literature is ill rewarded, but it is also true that the returns received by writers in this field were far less in the past than now, yet this did not prevent the production of masterpieces. There is evidence to show that Shakespeare, though he did gain "land and beehives," and had a "second-best bed," never acquired as much from all his immortal plays as more than one modern writer has done from a single "society drama," with a run of a season or two. John Milton sold the manuscript of "Paradise Lost" for the sum of £5. All along down the list are the impetuous writers. Goldsmith was practically a beggar. Burns lived and died in poverty. In our own country Mr. Allen says that the names of but two imaginative writers of the first half of this century, namely, Hawthorne and Poe, will live; yet Hawthorne added to his income by other means than literature, and Poe was always poor. All the facts are contrary to Mr. Allen's theory. The incentive of a high and adequate reward would doubtless bring more writers into the field and would be of benefit in many ways, but it is yet to be shown that genius can be created or even stimulated by the application of the commercial principle. The man who has a message to the world will deliver it even through difficulties. This, at least, has been the history of the past, and is likely to be in the future, though every one will wish that the path of genius may be made easy.

Theory and fact are not altogether in harmony when Mr. Allen asserts that great writers have failed exactly in proportion as their moral characters were defective—the idea conveyed being that the weakness of character impressed itself upon the work. As a general proposition it is true that a man's deeds make up his character, and that this is again manifested in his utterances, but specific conclusions based upon this are hardly safe in regard to so complicated a thing as the human mind. The mental organization is many-sided. A writer may do immoral acts and yet have the

artistic element of his nature so highly developed that it will forbid the expression of impurity in literature. The group of modern writers whom the lecturer named as proving his statement were all pure lived and pure minded, it is true, but perhaps these are characteristics of a comparatively pure age. The private lives of many equally great writers of earlier times will not bear such close examination. Burns's case sustains his views, the unexpurgated editions of that great poet's work betraying his dissolute life. On the other hand, Poe, whom Mr. Allen classes among the great writers, was a prodigal. George Eliot, to whom he does homage, lived a life contrary, at least, to conventional virtue. There is Zola, too, whom Mr. Howells considers a genius, who is hardly an exponent of Mr. Allen's theory. He chronicles all the indecencies and vileness of life, but his personal character is said to be above reproach. Mr. Allen should reconcile these inconsistencies in an otherwise admirable address.

## NET EARNINGS AND WAGES.

The managers of the railroads entering Chicago whose switchmen are threatening to strike declare that they cannot increase the present scale of wages for the reason that the present earnings of the roads will not permit it. They declare that while wages have been advancing the earnings of the roads have been decreasing, and that the cause of this decrease is found in increased wages to employees. Those who have studied the matter know that the rates of transportation of the great staples of the country have fallen very largely in ten years, while the competition has compelled a much better and probably a much more costly equipment of railroads. If this is the case, and the net earnings of railroads are falling off, it will be easy for the managers to make the fact plain to those who represent the switchmen by the statistics of traffic. When this is done and it appears that the earnings of the roads are not sufficient to permit the payment of higher wages, and, at the same time, meet their fixed charges, there can be no ground for a strike. If the roads cannot earn sufficient money to pay more wages, the interest on bonds and a fair dividend on the stock, no reasonable man or organization should demand it. Nor can the employees say in any such case that the earnings of the roads are no affairs of theirs, or that they must have higher wages whether interest on bonds is paid or dividends declared upon stock. It would be equally inconsistent for them to insist that the managers of railroads which might not be earning running expenses should hire money to pay increased wages, as to hold that all obligations to those who have money invested in railroads must give way in order that higher wages may be paid. Higher wages cannot be demanded in any industry in the face of declining profits. In the matter of wages, the net earnings of the business must be considered. During the past two years wages have been advanced in many industries because large sales and unusual demand have made the aggregate of profits larger than before. If the party in power keeps its pledges, a period in which a decline of wages must take place is at hand, for the reason that the announced policy will make foreign competition effective. If such conditions come, the employer must show that his net receipts have so decreased as to make it impossible to pay the higher wages, and employees must either accept the situation or force the closing of shops and factories. So if at the present time the managers of the railroads running into Chicago show from their books that they cannot afford to pay higher wages, those making the demand should withdraw it, or else go where they think they can do better. The application of common sense rules to all cases of difference should put an end to strikes and lockouts, which always result in loss and injury.

## OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

A college is a little world of itself. Its laws, its work, its social features, its rivalries, its rewards, absorb the interests and energies of the students as those interests and energies are never absorbed again. Not that matters of even greater moment than the problems of books will not present themselves, but it is only when life is new that the very delight of living casts a glamour over existing conditions and adds zest to all pursuits. The enthusiasm which carries with it a faith that sees no obstacles comes but once. This joy in living, this enthusiasm, this elation, and concentration make the college atmosphere, and it is a breath of this which comes like a refreshing breeze to Indianapolis once each year with the irruption of the eager, bright-faced oratorical contestants and their friends. It is the fashion of older folks to smile and gibe at the self importance of these youngsters, at the assumption that their proceedings are of paramount consequence to the entire community, at the high excitement over coming tournaments which pervades their ranks, but these smiles are indulgent and the gibes good natured. The truth is that the older folk rejoice in their way at these manifestations of fervid energy and earnestness. Perhaps there is a touch of envy in their regard, but it is not enough to abate the pleasure with which they look upon the young faces nor the sympathetic interest felt in their success. They know, these elders, that there is no later happiness quite like that involved in pursuit of a prize which at the time seems the final goal and upon whose capture everything depends. Other prizes will offer themselves and be desperately desired and struggled for, but more selfishness will be involved in the pursuit. The contestant, having had experience, will have learned that failure to win does not mean the end of all things, though it may end his struggles. He will have acquired philosophy, and philosophy, fortunately, is not a belonging of youth. Among the students one wins. His supporters flout

their colors and shout for their champion. The others take defeat hard, but quickly rally and look hopefully and ambitiously to another year to redeem them with ribbons flying to "take the town," and the town, as ever, will be glad to see them. The manner and matter of the orations are minor things; the zeal, and loyalty, and irrepressible enthusiasm of the students concerned are beautiful to behold. Everybody is "for" the college student when he—and she—come to us on their road up Parnassus and with their faces lifted toward the summit.

## THE INCREASE OF CRIME AND PAUPERISM.

A recent work entitled "Prisoners and Paupers," by Mr. H. M. Boies, member of the Pennsylvania Board of Public Charities, presents some interesting facts concerning the increase of criminals and the growing burden of pauperism in this country. The statistics of the last census show that during the forty years from 1850 to 1890 the criminal class in the United States increased from one in 3,500 to one in 786 of the population. This is an increase of 445 per cent., while during the same period the population increased only 170 per cent. During the last ten years, in which the population has increased 24 per cent., the criminal class has increased 45 per cent., and this in spite of the enormous multiplication of churches, schools and Christian agencies of all kinds. Such statistics as these are calculated to set men thinking.

Among the causes enumerated by Mr. Boies for this abnormal increase of crime are, first, the emancipation of the colored race, which, suddenly emerging from the degradation of slavery and naturally prone to allow the excitement of liberty to run into license, has, for many years past, furnished a much larger proportion of criminals than it formerly did. Another cause is the unrestricted immigration of the lower class of foreigners. Foreigners of the first and second generations constitute, at present, about 20 per cent. of our population, but they furnish more than 50 per cent. of the inmates of our reformatories, over one-third of our convicts and nearly three-fifths of all the paupers supported in our almshouses. Other causes cited by this author for the abnormal increase of crime and pauperism during the last few decades are the increase of intemperance, the crowding of people into cities, the lax administration of law, the bad organization and management of our jail system, and finally, the lack of family government, parental discipline and Christian training in early life. All these causes are more or less general in their operation. In the State of Pennsylvania, with which the author is most familiar, he says that, during the last ten years, the number of criminals has increased more than 60 per cent. faster than the population, the cost of county jails more than four times as fast, and the public expenditure for State institutions five times as fast.

The causes which, in the opinion of this author, are responsible for this alarming increase of crime and pauperism, viz., the changed condition of the colored race, unrestricted immigration, intemperance, crowded cities, the loose administration of law, a bad jail system and lack of early discipline and training, are discussed with so much intelligence and the conclusions so strongly presented as to carry conviction that the author's views are correct.

We could not in this article present even an outline of the author's views on all these points, but may refer to what he says on the jail system. "Our jails," he says, "are conducted as public schools of crime and nurseries of criminals." He regards with horror the practice common in many, if not most, of the States of thrusting all kinds of criminals, old and young, the utterly vicious and degraded with the comparatively innocent, into a common jail, where they herd together in idleness to propagate crime. He would send none but confirmed criminals to jail, and even then they should be separated. No child under eighteen years of age should ever be sent to jail. There are in the United States 17,038 county jails and only forty-four juvenile reformatories. Twenty-six States and Territories have no juvenile reformatory, but all have jails. The imagination staggers beneath the contemplation of the awful results of such a system. "We foolishly maintain in America," says this author, "forty times as many criminal hotbeds as reformatories, recruiting depots for the criminal class in nearly every county, while more than half the States make no official effort for its reduction. Designed, apparently, as a general rule, without the faintest conception of the proper purpose of confinement, with no visible object except security, combined sometimes with cheapness, sometimes with an attempt at architectural display, committed to the management of a professional politician as a reward for partisan services rendered or required, the county jail is an unmitigated curse upon the community." He thinks that, taking the country at large, the management of county jails is a more prolific cause of criminality even than intemperance. He regards the whole system as radically and fundamentally vicious, and one that can only be reformed by being completely changed in character and motive.

Other phases of crime and the treatment of criminals and paupers are very intelligently treated, but we have only space to give the author's conclusions, as follows:

The problem is resolved into three elementary phases, those of prevention, of reformation and of extinction—the last the most important of all. The efforts to be made in these different directions are of equal importance, necessity and promise. The first is the most difficult, the most arduous and the most important. The whole social system, reformatory treatment is confined to those only who are enfolded in it. The unit, the abnormal, the deviant, the defective and the others ought not to be liberated to destroy and multiply, but must be confined and secluded until they are exterminated. The marriage of the criminal and defective must be prevented; and, indeed, marriage of all those afflicted with constitutional defects should be prohibited. Society must take cognizance of the reproduction

of the race and correct the tendencies to degradation as a measure of self-preservation. It is idle and foolish to waste energy, sympathy and money in the hopeless effort to cure and restrain what should never have been permitted to exist. Physical degradation must be corrected to promote regeneration.

This extract shows that the author follows his convictions to the root of the matter. Whatever may be thought of his conclusions the facts and figures he presents in regard to the growth of crime and pauperism show that the subject is one which neither patriot nor philanthropist, Christian nor infidel, capitalist nor wage-worker can afford to ignore.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND is said to have determined not to appoint editors to office. The reason given is that it looks too much like a reward for past services or a fee for future ones. This looks like a far-stretched discrimination against the newspaper profession. Editors do not stand on a different footing in this regard from other professions, except that, as a class, they render more party service than any other. As offices generally go according to party service, why should not editors be rewarded as well as others? If Mr. Cleveland had made known this determination six months ago, what would have become of his campaign?

By the way, if he adheres to this rule, where will editors Morss and Shanklin be "at"?

It is of comparatively little consequence what kind of statutory groups, either as to subject or execution, the monument commissioners place around its base. Thanks to their pigheaded persistence in perverting the original purpose of the monument it has no longer any distinct motive or meaning, no moral inspiration. It will require an interpreter in history, and future generations will still wonder what mongrel meaning was intended to be conveyed by the hybrid hodge-podge of dates on its astragal. When finished it will be chiefly a monument to commemorate a breach of trust by the commissioners.

The managers of the world's fair are strongly inclined to keep it open a second year, though they do not make any pledges in advance. It will probably depend on the patronage and the wishes of the public. It will hardly be possible, in one season, for everybody to visit the fair who desires to, and, considering the enormous cost of the preparations and the extent of the display, it would seem a pity to confine it to one season.

THE Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Cleveland organ, takes occasion to remark that General Harrison spent last Sunday in Pittsburg, not because he objects to traveling on that day, but to arrive in Indianapolis on Monday. If the Republican must devote space to such matters, it might tell the truth, which is that General Harrison never travels on Sunday.

DENNIS's Fish and Game Talk is trying to settle the question as to the largest black bass ever caught in Indiana. The largest one known to the editor was caught in West Lake, near Boone City, and weighed eight pounds and eleven ounces, but Judge Hord, of Shelbyville, beats that. Under date of Feb. 6, 1893, he writes:

I have for thirty years taken recreation in fishing in the waters of Indiana for the black bass, and have never succeeded in capturing one that weighed over five and a quarter pounds, but saw one that had been caught in Flat Rock, in this county, by Jacob Conroy, of this place, that weighed five pounds and twelve ounces, which was the largest bass I ever saw. I had become a firm believer that a black bass weighing over six pounds did not exist in our Indiana waters, but last week a friend sent me a large-mouth black bass, a product of our Indiana waters, which weighed nine pounds, after being out of the water more than twenty-four hours.

This is probably the largest black bass ever taken in the State, though larger ones have been reported as having been caught in the waters of some other States, though not, we think, in running streams, which makes a decided difference in the game qualities of the fish.

The Myers voting machine was tried in some of the town elections in western New York a few days ago with very satisfactory results. The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle says:

At the Warsaw election the average time expended by a voter in recording his preferences by means of the machine was twenty seconds. The longest time occupied was three minutes, the shortest eight seconds. At Brighton the polls closed at 5 o'clock and six minutes after the result of the election was known and recorded. The certificate of the result was in the hands of the clerk before 7 o'clock. An hour later returns had been received at this office from only fifteen of the city districts, and it was after 11 o'clock before the last city return was in.

The merits claimed for the machine are mechanical accuracy, facility of voting and rapidity in making out the returns.

READER, Crawfordville: The information given yesterday in response to your inquiry concerning White House courtesies four years ago was not entirely correct. An informal dinner was given by the Cleveland to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison the evening before the inauguration.

## BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Spring John.

"This is a pretty soft sit I've got," remarked the dust in the carpet, "but I am afraid they are going to beat me out."